

**Minutes of Student Advisory Committee
September 25-26, 2002
Speaker's Conference Room
General Assembly Building**

Board of Education members, Mrs. Susan Genovese and Mrs. Ruby Rogers, greeted the committee of students who were selected from across the state to participate in the Student Advisory committee to the Board of Education.

The following members of the Board of Education Student Advisory Committee attended the meeting:

Name of Student	School/Division
Emily Browning	Holston High School, Washington County
Caryn Clark	Hopewell High School, Hopewell City
Jonathan Cross	Robinson Secondary, Fairfax
Amanda Dorsey	West Point High School, West Point
Ryan Durham	Tabb High School, York County
Adam Erby	Central High School, Lunenburg
Joshua Goff	Randolph-Henry High School, Charlotte County
Naaila Gray	Jamestown High School, Williamsburg-James City County
Patrick Haley	Western Albermarle High School, Albermarle County
Bradley Hinshelwood	Eastern Montgomery High School, Montgomery County
Jessica Johnson	Providence Middle School, Chesterfield County
Amanda McMillian	Carver Middle School, Henry County
Jonathan Meade	Castlewood High School, Russell County
Ryan Scofield	Broad Run High School, Loudoun County
Catherine Serex	Princess Anne Middle, Virginia Beach City
Danielle Wilson	Rockbridge Middle, Rockbridge County

The session opened with an icebreaker activity and introductions. Students were given an overview of the events of the day and a brief summary of the Standards of Quality. Cynthia Cave, director of policy, explained the Standards of Quality and the committee's task for the 2002-2003 school year. Three of the returning students were asked to share the mission and resolutions that were recommended to the board last year.

Resolutions Considered Last Year:

1. Developmental Support Program for Students with Disabilities

The committee recommended that the Board of Education consider the following actions:

- Encourage after-school parental involvement programs in order to educate and support the parents of students with disabilities
- Integrate disabilities into the Health Standards of Learning (SOL) for sixth grade and above; and

- Encourage local schools to establish and participate in recognition achievement clubs for student in special education.

2. Standards of Learning (SOL) Test and Incentives/Exemptions

The committee recommended that the Board of Education consider the following actions:

- Take a limited role in delegating specific policies for all school divisions;
- Establish an online “idea bank” to provide school divisions with possible motivation incentives; and
- Inform school divisions of this resource through superintendent and principal memorandums.

3. Qualities of Substitute Teachers

The committee recommended that the Board of Education consider taking the following actions:

- Age requirements not specified in the regulations of the Board of Education should be at the discretion of the localities;
- Background checks should be completed prior to an applicant’s hiring;
- A list of references to include employers, or other persons or organizations, with which the applicant has been affiliated, should be submitted along with the application. Schools are encouraged to check references prior to hiring an applicant;
- Individuals without prior teaching experience should observe experienced teachers in classroom settings as part of the orientation process;
- A Web site should be launched by the Board of Education that includes a resource guide pertaining to classroom behavior management. Principals should be notified of the availability of this service.

Discussion of 2002-2003 Issues

Students were divided into four groups of four students each to discuss and frame possible issues for the board to consider. Students presented to the large group the two issues they had discussed in small groups. Presentations were followed up with questions and suggestions from their peers. When the presentations were completed, students voted on the top issue from each group. The members of the groups now become task forces that will research and present their recommendations on the selected issues.

The issues presented and chosen by each group were as follows:

Group One

- School nurses or other trained certified staff for emergencies
- Expanded career and technical programs

The large group decided on expanded career and technical programs as the priority issue.

Group Two

- Remediation for students not passing the Standards of Learning tests
- The award of verified credits for graduation

The large group was split on these two issues and decided to integrate them into one issue called “remediation and issues related to the award of verified credits.”

Group Three

- An appeals process for Standards of Learning testing
- Expanding access to advanced courses for students in all areas of the state

The large group chose expanding access to advanced courses as the issue.

Group Four

- Character education beyond elementary school
- Basic technology standards for teachers

The large group selected character education beyond elementary school as the issue.

Students joined the Board of Education for the Standards of Quality (SOQ) committee meeting where they heard presentations on the Virginia Pre-School Initiative for at risk four-year-olds, pre-school programs, reading specialists, the Early Intervention Reading Initiative, staffing for grades 4-12, and technical revisions to relevant Code sections.

On Thursday, the board recognized the students and commended them on being selected from across the state to serve as representatives on the student committee. One student from each group shared a summary of the previous day’s recommendations to the board. Students will research their topics and meet to discuss progress in November.

Submitted by Regina Hervey,
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